

BRITISH STORM
TRENCH SYSTEM
TWO MILES LONG

Take "Impregnable" Positions Organized to Defend Thiệpval.

FIGHT HAND TO HAND IN OPEN COUNTRY

German Brigade Routed in Old Time Battle in High Wood Sector.

TEUTONS ABANDON WEAPONS IN FLIGHT

London Sees Signs of Great Lowering of Morale of Kaiser's Troops.

LONDON, Sept. 17.—Neither the strenuous resistance nor hastily summoned reinforcements could stop the onrush of British and French on the Somme front to-day. The Germans were forced from strong positions both ends of the line and beaten in trench fighting, artillery duels, air combats and hand to hand fighting the open.

There was no slowing down of the British attacks that have swept the Germans back for miles in the past three days. British troops stormed nearly two miles of German trenches which heretofore they found it impossible to take, in the region of Thiépval. They took the supposed impregnable Danube trench, a n

French Extend Gains.

South of the Somme the French drove the Germans out of the parts of V. mandovillers and Berry they still in and took all the trenches from V. mandovillers through Demecourt to Be as well, a distance of nearly three m. They made more gains just north Berry, toward Barleux, which ext the front on which they attacked s cessfully to four miles.

Soon after both armies had surrendered, they were called upon to face desperate counter attacks from the Germans. British repulsed every attack made on their new positions, doing heavy execution in the German ranks with a full fire. The French also repulsed every

One of the German attacks upon British trenches between Flers and Arras, on the line of the big British gains of Friday, led to a fight of a kind that has not been seen on the western front in many a month—hand to hand fighting between thousands of troops in the open. The British won it, threw back the Germans with heavy losses in confusion. The official statement describes it thus:

"Between Fletch and Martinpunch the enemy brigade advancing to attack the direction of High Wood (Fourth Wood) was met by two of our battalions in the open. Hand to hand fighting, speed, in which we were completely successful, the enemy battalions dispersed, thrown back with heavy losses."

850 Germans Prisoners.

In all of today's operations the number of prisoners taken by both armies totals just about a thousand. The French took 799 and the British 250. These 21 are officers. The British quantities of rifles and equipment taken from the Germans fled from the Balauch.

All accounts agree that the statement which mentions the abandonment of the rifles and equipment in Danube trench simply gives point to condition that has existed on the front recently. The increasingly poor morale of the German troops. Soldiers in trenches smashed by British shells have run from the following infantry units to Germany, but others have

To-day's British attacks were aimed at Thiéval. Practically all were just south of the Ancre, at almost the northern extremity of the Somme. The taking of Mouquet farm and the trench cuts Thiéval in great detail.

Aim to Win High Ground.

was to cover all the high ground occupied by the Germans who had taken Thiepval, and the terrain a little of it, as the high ground was seen on Friday by the taking of Courcelle, Martinpuich and Siers. From a north and east of Thiepval the ground slopes down to Grandcourt, where the Germans are strongly entrenched.

The British attack that won the use trench and Mougnet form was last evening, and continued during night. The fight for the Cambes was of the kind that the British call "nasty." The trench, in real whole system of interlocking tre was fortified with all the lag

Besides the actual intrenchments, trenches, saps and communication lines, there were dugouts in numbers, strongly reinforced with concrete, sandbags, beams and brick. The dugouts were connected with the trenches, passages, and all the

British gun fire of tremendous
city had cut to pieces the barbed